



Disaster Resistant Times
Shenandoah Valley Project Impact
Citizen Corps Council and CERT Member Newsletter
December 2006/January 2007

**Warmest
Thoughts And
Best Wishes
For A
Wonderful
Holiday Season
And A Very
Happy New
Year!**

**This newsletter is
published by:
Shenandoah Valley
Project Impact
C/O CSPDC
112 MacTanly Place
Staunton, Virginia 24401
Phone: 540-885-5174
E-mail: cspdc@cspdc.org**

CERT Advanced Trainings Scheduled For 2007

In October, CERT members were asked to choose three topics that they would like to learn more about in the upcoming year. The top two topics chosen were "What To Do If You Are First At The Scene Of An Accident" and "How To Work With Wild Animals In A Disaster". The third choice of CERT members was a three-way tie between, "Basic Sign Language", "Advanced Training On Helping Persons With Special Needs In A Disaster", and a presentation by a local meteorologist. The first of three trainings will be held in February. We will pass along more details about the February program in the next newsletter. A special thanks goes to the Cities of Waynesboro and Staunton and Augusta County for contributing the funding that is providing our CERT members with advanced training.

Mild Winter Expected

According to the National Weather Service, a weak El Nino underway in the Pacific Ocean should contribute to a mild winter for much of the United States. An El Nino is a warming of the tropical Pacific ocean surface, accompanied by changes in air pressure and winds. In the West, Southwest, Plains states, Midwest, Northeast and Northern Mid-Atlantic warmer-than-normal winter temperatures are expected. In Maine, the Southern Mid-Atlantic, Tennessee Valley, and Texas there is an equal chance for either warmer or cooler than average temperatures this winter. Based on this forecast, in our area, we need to be prepared for anything this winter.

2006 Atlantic Hurricane Season

The 2006 Atlantic Hurricane Season ended on November 29th. Unlike the previous two hurricane seasons, 2006 was noticeably quiet with no landfalling hurricanes along the U.S. coastline. In 2006, there were nine named storms. Five of the nine storms developed into hurricanes, two of which were considered major hurricanes.

2007 Atlantic Hurricane Season

Colorado State University forecasters have predicted above-average activity for the 2007 Atlantic Hurricane Season with fourteen named storms. Of the fourteen storms, seven will be hurricanes. Three of the seven hurricanes will be major hurricanes. The current El Nino contributed to the calmer 2006 hurricane season but is expected to dissipate before hurricane season starts on June 1, 2007.

"Preparedness is not at the end of the day just a government responsibility. The government does not own most of the assets in this country. We don't operate the businesses, and we don't employ most of the people. That's why it's a civic duty and a personal responsibility for individuals and private businesses all across the country to do their part in personal preparedness. We have to continue to promote a culture of preparedness through the Citizen Corps, which has at this point close to 2,100 councils in every state which is training hundreds of thousands of people in communities all over the country in preparedness. And I want to thank you for your support and participation."

- Department of Homeland Security Secretary, Michael Chertoff's opening remarks at the Partnership for Preparedness National Conference.



Please Mark Your Calendars:

Quarterly Citizen Corps Council Meetings

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Tuesday, December 4, 2007



Each meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. at the
Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission office
at 112 MacTanly Place in Staunton.

CERT Volunteer Assist With Airport Drill

On October 26th, ten CERT volunteers participated in an emergency drill held at the Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport. CERT members played the roles of an airplane crew and passengers who were exposed to a hazardous substance while in the air which required them to make an emergency landing. CERT members' convincing role-playing helped the first responder community throughout the region practice their skills. **A special thanks to CERT volunteers Martha Brooks, Bonnie Brown, Chris Cartwright, Larry Diehl, Jennifer Jarvis, Charlie and Donna King, Roger Ramsey, Wanda True and Mary Wright for their participation in the drill.**



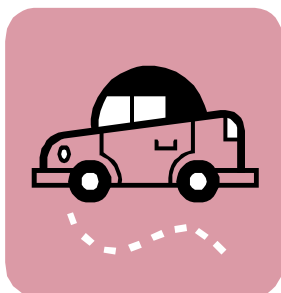
Nor'easters - Winter's Hurricanes?

A nor'easter is a large-scale storm that most often happens in the winter or early spring. A nor'easter is a low pressure system whose center of rotation is just off the coast with winds coming from the north east. They have a pattern similar to other types of tropical storms and cause coastal flooding and erosion and gale force winds. Inland, these storms can cause large amounts of snow to fall and windy conditions. Both the 1962 Ash Wednesday storm and the Blizzard of January 1996 were caused by nor'easters and dumped a lot of snow in the Central Shenandoah Valley Region. So if your local weather person mentions a nor'easter moving up the coast, keep your eyes on the forecast to see if the storm will affect our area. It could be time to dust off the snow shovel and stock up on supplies.

For Your Vehicle

Keep the following items in your vehicle during the winter:

- cell phone
- blankets/sleeping bags
- high-calorie foods that don't require refrigeration or cooking (protein bars, nuts, beef jerky, etc.)
- flashlight with extra batteries
- first aid kit
- pocket knife
- a change of clothing in case you get wet
- a large empty can and plastic cover with tissues and paper towels for sanitary purposes
- a smaller can and water-proof matches to melt snow for drinking water
- bag of sand or clay cat litter (non-clumping)
- shovel windshield scraper and brush
- tool kit
- tow rope
- booster cables
- water container
- compass
- road maps
- brightly colored cloth to use as a distress signal



Here are some things to consider when making your winter preparations.



Watches and Warnings:

When severe winter weather threatens your area, it's essential that you listen to your local radio and TV stations for updated information. Make sure you are familiar with the various winter-related watches and warnings.

Winter Weather Advisory: Declared when winter weather conditions are expected to cause difficulty and might be dangerous. With caution, these situations should not become life-threatening.

Winter Storm Watch: Severe winter conditions, such as heavy snow or ice, are possible within the next day or two. Prepare now.

Winter Storm Warning: Severe winter conditions have begun or are about to begin in your area. Stay indoors.

Blizzard Warning: Snow and strong winds will combine to produce blinding snow with near zero visibility, deep drifts and life-threatening wind chill. Seek shelter immediately.

Winterize Your Home:

- Make sure your home is properly insulated. If necessary, insulate the walls and attic to reduce your home's power demands for heat. Caulk and weather-strip doors and windowsills to keep cold air out.
- **Consider buying emergency heating equipment, such as a wood- or coal-burning stove or a kerosene heater.** If you have a wood stove, be sure it is properly vented and in good working order and that you dispose of the ashes safely. For a kerosene heater, use only the correct fuel for your unit. Properly ventilate the area of use and refuel the unit outdoors once it has cooled. **Keep a supply of wood or coal on hand** to use in your wood/coal-burning stove or fireplace.
- **Install storm windows or cover windows with plastic** from the inside to provide an extra layer of insulation to keep cold air out.
- **Install heat tape on water pipes.** Put the tape on all exterior water pipes and interior pipes located on outside walls or anywhere else that temperatures could go below freezing. Follow the manufacturer's installation instructions.
- **Protect pipes from freezing** by wrapping pipes in insulation or layers of newspaper and then covering them with plastic to keep out moisture. Letting faucets drip a little.
- **Create a place where your animals can be comfortable** in severe winter weather. Bring your companion animals indoors. Horses and livestock should have a shelter where they can be protected from wind, snow, ice and rain. Grazing animals should have access to a protected supply of food and non-frozen water. **Ensure that any outbuildings that house or shelter animals can withstand wind, heavy snow and ice.**

- Source: <http://www.vaemergency.com/threats/winter/index.cfm>